1. (Amended) A method of [preparing] obtaining a preparation of bone marrow stromal cells (BMSCs), [for implantation for gene therapy, said] the method comprising:

(a) [obtaining bone marrow stromal cells;

(b) culturing the stromal cells to obtain an expanded number of cultured stromal cells;

(c)] transfecting cultured [stromal cells] BMSCs with an exogenous gene to obtain transfected [stromal cells] BMSCs; and

[(d)] (b) cryopreserving the transfected [stromal cells until implantation] BMSCs, wherein the level of expression of the exogenous gene in the transfected and cryopreserved BMSCs is comparable to the level of expression of the exogenous gene in transfected BMSCs that are not subsequently cryopreserved.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [said] the exogenous gene encodes a secreted peptide.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [said] the secreted peptide is a serum protein, a blood clotting factor, a cytokine, a lymphokine, a growth factor, a peptide hormone, a lipid binding protein, a metabolic enzyme, an antibacterial peptide, an antimicrobial peptide, an antifungal peptide, or a neurotransmitter.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein [said] the blood clotting factor is factor VIII or factor IX.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [said] the exogenous gene encodes a cell surface molecule.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein [said] the cell surface molecule is V-CAM-1, I-CAM-1, N-CAM, or V-LAM.